PURPLE RE-LAUNCH RAINBOW
Sunday rock at the Coliseum

NEWS DESK
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The new-look BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS with new lead singer JERRY FULLER (second right) who replaces David Clayton-Thomas

LONDON'S RAINBOW THEATRE re-opens at the end of this month with a two-day engagement by Deep Purple. The group star at the re-born rock venue on Friday, June 30, and Saturday, July 1, in concerts promoted by Peter Bowyer. The box-office opens this Saturday (10). This booking does not affect Purple's nationwide concert tour, reported last week, which will start in mid-September and play up to 20 venues. Commented Bowyer: "It's simply that I have been looking for a London venue for Purple, and I grabbed the Rainbow when it became available."

As announced two weeks ago, the lease on the Rainbow has been taken over by a new company, named Biffo, headed by the bosses of the Chrysalis organisation. It is not yet known whether rock concerts will be featured there every weekend, as this is dependent upon the availability of big-name attractions.

Peter Bowyer has rented the Rainbow from Biffo for the Purple concerts, and he told the NME this week: "I hope to make it the London venue for all my tours in future."

A SERIES OF Sunday night rock and pop concerts is to be staged at London's largest theatre — the 2,350-seater Coliseum — during the summer and autumn. The deal has been signed by the theatrical booking company of Howard & Wyndham Ltd., who have recently been extending their scope into the music field. They plan to present a wide variety of big-name acts, with an appeal "that ranges from Shirley Bassey to Pink Floyd." The concerts will start in August and continue through the autumn, and the company says that several big rock artists have already made inquiries about appearing at the venue. Initial bookings will be announced shortly.

Howard & Wyndham are also setting up a pop and rock autumn series for Oxford's New Theatre, to follow the successful Music Week which they staged there in May. Among names already booked are the Everly Brothers (October 1), The Strawbs (15), Cliff Richard (18), Lindisfarne (21) and Pentangle (29), with subsequent appearances by Family, the Spinners and the Buddy Rich Orchestra.

Spokesman John Burrows told the NME: "The type of acts we are presenting at Oxford give a clue to the sort of concerts we shall promote at the Coliseum. We are also presenting autumn concerts at Liverpool's Royal Court Theatre, including a late October appearance there by Cat Stevens. So far as the Coliseum is concerned, absolutely no acts will be banned."